

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD R.
CASANOVA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor Richard R. Casanova, who has been named Los Angeles Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year. Mr. Casanova is driven by a sense of civic responsibility to protect our community while he is on-duty and to volunteer his services while he is off-duty.

Richard currently serves as a member of the Los Angeles Fire Department in a dual capacity as both a Paramedic and Firefighter. His extensive training as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a paramedic and as a first aid instructor for the American Red Cross, combined with his many years of dedicated service makes him a valuable asset to the citizens of West Valley.

In addition, Richard is deeply devoted to his wife Peggy and their six children, and is a tireless volunteer in the community. At his local parish he does everything from serve as a youth ministry team member to serve as the disaster preparedness coordinator. Among other numerous activities, he also conducts first aid and CPR instruction for Scouts, local schools, and businesses and is the American Red Cross On-Call Instructor for CPR and First Aid.

The West Valley Community recognizes Richard as an outstanding father, fireman, and community servant. As his Representative in the U.S. Congress, I join the citizens of the West Valley in thanking him for his years of dedicated service to our community, and in extending our warm congratulations and best wishes on his recognition as Firefighter of the Year.

**"RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
END TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
IN U.S. TERRITORY"**

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have received a copy of a resolution passed by the Federation of Asian People of Guam in support of H.R. 1450, the Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act. This legislation is urgently needed to stop the inexcusable pattern of labor and human rights abuses in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI].

Over 35 Members of the House, as well as prominent human rights and religious groups, and national labor organizations are unified in their support of this legislation. This bill would mandate needed reforms in the CNMI's minimum wage and immigration policies that have allowed the recruitment of a disenfranchised, low paid foreign workforce that now outnumbers the local, indigenous population. These workers are treated as commodities, with little individual value, and are regularly

denied the labor, health and safety protections guaranteed by U.S. law. We must send a strong message to the CNMI government that these continued abuses will not be tolerated on U.S. soil.

The resolution that follows was adopted by the Federation of Asian People on Guam, an umbrella organization of several Asian-American interest groups on Guam. The resolution states, in part, the CNMI can no longer conceal the evidence of ongoing labor and immigration abuses and these same problems were pointed out to Gov. Froilan Tenorio and local and Federal officials in the FADG Resolution 94-1 3 years ago. The resolution further states that H.R. 1450 will hopefully stem the corruption which consumes everyone including the innocent in the CNMI.

I thank the Federation of Asian People for their strong support on this most important issue and ask that the Resolution 97-1 be printed here in full.

Federation of Asian People on Guam (FAPG) Resolution No. 97-1

Relative to commending and supporting Representative GEORGE MILLER on his legislation to strip CNMI of many of its immigration and labor powers.

Be It Resolved By The Board of Directors of the Federation of Asian People of Guam:

Whereas, the Honorable George Miller, a Senior U.S. Congressman, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources who has the jurisdiction over Territorial Issues, aims to introduce a legislation to remove the power of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands on Immigration and Labor Control; and

Whereas, according to continuing reports, the CNMI can no longer conceal the evidence of ongoing labor and immigration abuses; that the CNMI is accused of using that local control to import and abuse thousands of low-paid Asian workers; that these same problems were pointed out to Governor Froilan Tenorio and to local and federal officials in the FAPG Resolution 94.1 three years ago; and

Whereas the CNMI were branded "Hell Holes" for foreign workers during the announcement of new legislation aimed at the Commonwealth, according to a statement read on behalf of John Sweeney, President of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations; and

Whereas, "this continued pattern of abuse and indifference to human exploitation demands a rapid and bipartisan response from the Congress and the Clinton Administration", to quote Representative George Miller while announcing the new initiative which declares to one and all that these sordid conditions not be tolerated on U.S. soil, and

Whereas, we pray that the first Twenty Five stout-hearted Congressmen sponsors of the bill to remove CNMI's local authority to set minimum wage rates, enforce U.S. immigration law and limit use of "Made in the USA" labels to garment factories that abide by U.S. labor standards be joined by others to restore the integrity of the CNMI Government; and

Whereas, this legislation will hopefully stem the malignant growth of CNMI's social cancer which consumes everyone including the innocent, brought about by illegal drugs, public corruption, victimization of guest workers through violations of their human rights, abuse, neglect and discrimination, forced prostitution, exploitation of minors, and other depravities crying for vengeance in heaven; and therefore be it

Resolved, the Federation of Asian People on Guam commends, expresses gratitude to the sponsors of the bill entitled Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act of 1997, and extends strong support and full endorsement of Congressman George Miller's endeavors to preserve Universal Human Rights and the U.S. brand of Justice; and be it further

Resolved, that the FAPG President certify to and the Federation's Secretary attest the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Honorable George Miller; to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich; to Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archdiocese of Manila, Philippines; to Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, of Agaña Basilica; to Bishop Thomas Camacho of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan; to the supporters of this bill representing groups and agencies in California, Hawaii, Alaska, Florida, Guam, CNMI, all of U.S.A., the Philippines & other Pacific Basin/Rim jurisdictions; to members of the electronic and printed media; to the U.S. Departments of Interior, Labor, Justice and Commerce and to his Excellency, Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America.

Robert Kao, President FAPG, Former President, United Chinese Association; Irene Cheng, Secretary, FAPG; Roger Ruelos, President, Filipino, Community of Guam; John Vega, Public Relations Officer, FAPG, Former President, FAPG & FCG; Charles Lee, Vice President, FAPG, President, Korean Association of Guam; Calvin Lai, Treasurer, FAPG, President, Vietnamese-Chinese Association; Pete Hemlani, President, Indian, Community of Guam; Resty Albeza, Board Member, FAPG; Eddie del Rosario, Chartered Member, FAPG, Former President, Filipino Community of Guam.

**FRANK KELLY'S VISION FOR
HUMANITY**

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, we in Santa Barbara are blessed to have as our neighbor and community leader Frank Kelly, the Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Frank has been a voice for peace, justice and basic human rights for many years, and I am pleased to count him as a close friend.

Recently, Frank authored a thought-provoking article in the Santa Barbara News-Press calling on Congress to enact a resolution calling for "A Day of Celebration for Humanity." I commend Frank's piece to my colleagues, and I look forward to discussing the important issues raised in it as we debate the critical public policy decisions of the 105th Congress.

[From the Santa Barbara News-Press, Mar. 30, 1997]

A CHAIR FOR EVERYONE AT HUMANITY'S
TABLE

(By Frank K. Kelly)

By kneeling at the feet of grieving Israeli families whose daughters had been killed by a Jordanian soldier, King Hussein of Jordan demonstrated the compassion that goes beyond all boundaries.

He kissed them and asked to be regarded as a member of each family. To the parents of one girl he said: "I feel like I have lost a child."

In the wars of this bloody century, millions of children have been slaughtered. All